INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

196

44
Action

CONFIDENTIAL

15408

1985 SEP 18 AM 10 18

NEA
Info
SS
G
SP
SAH
L
EUR
IO
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
DOD
DAC
AID
RSR

EWPUN DMHVV QMA395ATA857
RR RUEHCR
DE RUQMAT 1501Z 2611200
ZNY CCCCC
R 181123Z
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS
RUFHCR/USDOCOSOUTH
RUQMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 134
RUQVHN/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 122
STATE GRNC
BT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR
457
126
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 6 MAY 1982

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEPTEMBER 18

PARIS FOR JAMES AND BURNS. USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD - FRESHAMAN.

FOLLOWING SWEARING IN OF STEPHANOPOULOS GOVT LAST NIGHT (EMBTEL 455), PRIMIN STEPHANOPOULOS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT HIS OFFICE. NEW PRIMIN TOLD REPORTERS MAIN TASK OF HIS GOVT (WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "GOVT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY") WOULD BE TO FACE "CRUCIAL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS". STEPHANOPOULOS SAID HE INTENDED TO LEAD COUNTRY "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" TO ELECTIONS UNDER STRAIGHT PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT NECESSARY PRECONDITION FOR ELECTIONS WAS "RESTORATION OF PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY". PRIMIN PLANS PRESS CONFERENCE FOR LATER TODAY.

FORMATION OF NEW GOVT EVOKED BLISTERING STATEMENT FROM FORMER PRIMIN PAPANDREOU, WHO CHARGED THAT KING'S ACTION IN AWARDING MANDATE "FOR FOURTH TIME" CONSTITUTED "VIOLATION OF CONSTITION". REFERRING TO SIX NEW DEPUTIES WHO DEFECTED FROM HIS GROUP TO JOIN GOVT., PAPANDREOU SAID "YESTERDAY THEY WERE ON BALCONIES NEXT TO ME, APPLAUDED SIX DEPUTIES WERE FIRST SUMMONED TO HOUSE NEAR PALACE WHERE EACH COULD CONFIRM THAT OTHERS WERE ALSO JOINING NEW GOVT AND THEN "LED TO PALACE ON FOOT IN GROUP AND IN CUSTODY FOR FEAR OF POSSIBLE ESCAPE IN ORDER TO BE SWORN IN AS MINISTERS AND STATESMEN OF COUNTRY! SHAME!"
PAPANDREOU WARNED THAT "THERE ARE THINGS IN STORE FOR THEM... NEITHER TRAITORS NOR ERE HAVE MANDATE TO GOVERN. THE DEPUTIES ARE NOT SOVEREIGN, IT IS PEOPLE WHO ARE SOVEREIGN. AND THE PEOPLE WILL IMPOSE THEIR WILL. NO MATTER WHAT OBSTACLES ARE PUT IN THEIR PATH, THE RAGE OF PEOPLE WILL BLOW THEM ASIDE. DEMOCRACY WILL WIN."

CONFIDENTIAL

PAPANDREOU GOES TO THESSALONIKI TOMORROW, ACCOMPANIED BY LARGE NUMBER OF HIS DEPUTIES, TO DELIVER SPEECH.

PARL IS SCHEDULED TO BE CONVENED WEDNESDAY.

IN AFTERMATH OF LAST NIGHT'S SWEARING IN OF NEW GOVT FEELING IN POLITICAL CIRCLES TODAY IS THAT, LACKING ONLY ONE DEPUTY FOR MAJORITY, CHANCES OF STEPHANOPOULOS GOVT OBTAINING REQUIRED DEPUTY BEFORE PARL TAKES CONFIDENCE VOTE ARE EXTREMELY FAVORABLE. SOURCES CLOSE TO STEPHANOPOULOS INFORMED EMB OFFICER THAT THREE OTHER DEPUTIES NOMINALLY LOYAL TO PAPANDREOU HAVE SIGNED DECLARATION THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT STEPHANOPOULOS GOVT AND AT LEAST ONE OF THEM MAY BE SWORN IN AS MINISTER NEXT WEEK. IF THIS DOES INDEED HAPPEN, THEN STEPHANOPOULOS WILL BE ASSURED OF MAJORITY IN CONFIDENCE VOTE.

IN PROMISING ELECTIONS "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" STEPHANOPOULOS IS TRYING TO BLUNT EDGE OF PAPANDREOU CHARGE THAT PALACE AND NEW GOVT ADAMANTLY OPPOSE ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, IT IS NOTEWROTHY THAT STEPHANOPOULOS SET AS PRECONDITION FOR ELECTIONS "RESTORATION OF PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY," AND PROPOSED THAT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD UNDER STRAIGHT PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM. ASIDE FROM FACT THAT STRAIGHT PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO PAPANDREOU (AS WELL AS TO OTHER LARGE PARTY, ERE), PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION ANENDING PRESENT ELECTORAL LAW (REINFORECED PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM) MIGHT REQUIRE MANY MONTHS. IN ANY CASE, STEPHANOPOULOS FORCES ADMIT THAT IF THEY OBTAIN VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN PARL THEY DO NOT REPEAT NOT FORESEE ELECTIONS IN NEAR FUTURE.

GP-3. ANSCHUETZ